AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of claims:

1-125. **(Canceled).**

126. **(Currently Amended)** A method of stimulating growth of high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells or of resuscitating dormant, moribund or latent high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells, the method comprising

(i) contacting the high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells or the dormant, moribund or latent high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells *in vitro* with a composition comprising an isolated polypeptide purified to essential homogeneity and having at least 50% sequence identity with amino acid residues 117 to 184 of SEQ ID NO:2, wherein said polypeptide is capable of stimulating growth of the high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells or of resuscitating the dormant, moribund, or latent high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells; and

(ii) incubating said high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells or said dormant, moribund or latent high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells in culture medium containing the polypeptide, thereby stimulating the growth of said high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells or resuscitating said dormant, moribund or latent high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells; wherein the high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells and the dormant, moribund or latent high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells are selected from the group consisting of Micrococcus ssp. and Mycobacterium ssp.

127. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 126, wherein the polypeptide is recombinant.

128-130. **(Canceled)**.

131. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 126 or 127, wherein the polypeptide is in unit dosage form.

132-143. **(Canceled)**.

144. **(Currently Amended)** A method of stimulating growth of high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells or of resuscitating dormant, moribund or latent high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells, the method comprising

(i) contacting the high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells or the dormant, moribund or latent high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells *in vitro* with a cell strain expressing an isolated nucleic acid encoding a polypeptide having at least 50% sequence identity with amino acid residues 117 to 184 of SEQ ID NO:2; and

(ii) incubating said high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells or said dormant, moribund or latent high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells and the cell strain in culture medium, thereby stimulating the growth of said high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells or resuscitating said dormant, moribund or latent high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells; wherein the high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells and the dormant, moribund or latent high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells are selected from the group consisting of Micrococcus ssp. and Mycobacterium ssp.

145-148. **(Canceled)**.

149. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 126, wherein the isolated polypeptide comprises SEQ ID NO:2.

150. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 126, wherein the isolated polypeptide comprises amino acid residues 117 to 184 of SEQ ID NO:2.

151-158. **(Canceled).**

159. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 126, wherein said dormant, moribund or latent high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells are present in a sample taken from a human or an animal.

160. **(Currently Amended)** A method of stimulating growth of high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells or of resuscitating dormant, moribund or latent high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells, the method comprising

(i) contacting the high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells or the dormant, moribund or latent high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells *in vitro* with a composition comprising a ~~purified~~ polypeptide purified to essential homogeneity comprising SEQ ID NO:2, wherein said polypeptide is capable of stimulating growth of the high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells or of resuscitating the dormant, moribund, or latent high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells; and

(ii) incubating said high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells or said dormant, moribund or latent high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells in culture medium containing the polypeptide, thereby stimulating the growth of said high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells or resuscitating said dormant, moribund or latent high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells; wherein the high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells and the dormant, moribund or latent high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells are selected from the group consisting of Micrococcus ssp. and Mycobacterium ssp.

161. **(Currently Amended)** A method of stimulating growth of high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells or of resuscitating dormant, moribund or latent high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells, the method comprising

(i) contacting the high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells or the dormant, moribund or latent high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells *in vitro* with a composition comprising a ~~purified~~ polypeptide purified to essential homogeneity comprising at least amino acid residues 117 to 184 of SEQ ID NO: 2, wherein said polypeptide is capable of stimulating growth of the high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells or of resuscitating the dormant, moribund, or latent high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells; and

(ii) incubating said high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells or said dormant, moribund or latent high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells in culture medium containing the polypeptide, thereby stimulating the growth of said high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells or resuscitating said dormant, moribund or latent high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells; wherein the high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells and the dormant, moribund or latent high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells are selected from the group consisting of Micrococcus ssp. and Mycobacterium ssp.

162. **(Cancelled)**.

163. **(Currently Amended)** A method of stimulating growth of high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells or of resuscitating dormant, moribund or latent high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells, the method comprising

(i) contacting the high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells or the dormant, moribund or latent high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells *in vitro* with a cell strain expressing an isolated nucleic acid encoding a polypeptide comprising SEQ ID NO: 2, wherein said polypeptide is capable of stimulating growth of the high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells or of resuscitating the dormant, moribund, or latent high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells; and

(ii) incubating said high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells or said dormant, moribund or latent high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells and said cell strain in culture medium, thereby stimulating the growth of said high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells or resuscitating said dormant, moribund or latent high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells; wherein the high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells and the dormant, moribund or latent high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells are selected from the group consisting of Micrococcus ssp. and Mycobacterium ssp.

164. **(Currently Amended)** A method of stimulating growth of high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells or of resuscitating dormant, moribund or latent high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells, the method comprising

(i) contacting the high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells or the dormant, moribund or latent high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells *in vitro* with a cell strain expressing an isolated

nucleic acid encoding a polypeptide comprising at least amino acid residues 117 to 184 of SEQ ID NO:2, wherein said polypeptide is capable of stimulating growth of the high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells or of resuscitating the dormant, moribund, or latent high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells, and

(ii) incubating said high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells or said dormant, moribund or latent high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells and said cell strain in culture medium, thereby stimulating the growth of said high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells or resuscitating said dormant, moribund or latent high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells; wherein the high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells and the dormant, moribund or latent high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells are selected from the group consisting of Micrococcus ssp. and Mycobacterium ssp.

165. **(Withdrawn, Previously Presented)** The method of claim 126, wherein the isolated polypeptide comprises SEQ ID NO:36 or SEQ ID NO:43.

166. **(Withdrawn, Previously Presented)** The method of claim 126, wherein the isolated polypeptide comprises SEQ ID NO:7.

167. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 126, wherein the isolated polypeptide comprises SEQ ID NO:1.

168. **(Withdrawn, Previously Presented)** The method of claim 126, wherein the isolated polypeptide comprises SEQ ID NO:3.

169. **(Withdrawn, Previously Presented)** The method of claim 126, wherein the isolated polypeptide comprises SEQ ID NO:4.

170. **(Withdrawn, Previously Presented)** The method of claim 126, wherein the isolated polypeptide comprises SEQ ID NO:5.

171. **(Withdrawn, Previously Presented)** The method of claim 126, wherein the isolated polypeptide comprises SEQ ID NO:6.

172. **(Withdrawn, Previously Presented)** The method of claim 126, wherein the isolated polypeptide comprises SEQ ID NO:8.